

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13323 201240Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 AID-05 /101 W
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R 201233Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9383
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
USMISSION SINAI

UNCLAS CAIRO 13323

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: REFERENDUM EVE

1. PRESS MAY 20 BANNER HEADLINES TOMORROW'S REFERENDUM
IN WHICH 11 MILLION EGYPTIANS EXPECTED PARTICIPATE.
SPEAKING TO NATION ON TELEVISION, MININT NABAWI DENIED
REFERENDUM REPRESENTS SETBACK TO DEMOCRACY. NABAWI
DESCRIBED LEFT PARTY PLATFORM AS DESIGNED LEAD EGYPT TO
COMMUNIST COMMUNITY. SAID COMMUNISM CONFLICTS WITH
COUNTRY'S SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES. WAFD, ACCORDING
NABAWI, WANTS RETURN EGYPT TO PRE-1952 ERA.

2. PAPERS REPORT REFERENDUM RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED
MORNING MAY 22 AND REFERRED TO ASSEMBLY MAY 27, WITH
ASSEMBLY EXPECTED DRAFT SINGLE LAW EMBODYING SADAT'S
"PRINCIPLES". PAPERS NOTE ASU SEC GEN MUSTAFA KHALIL'S
COMMITTEE ALSO EXPECTED MEET AFTER REFERENDUM TO CONSIDER
POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST LEFT PARTY.

3. ARRESTS. SECURITY OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED ARREST OF
LEFT PARTY LEADER KHALID MOHIE EL DIN'S SECRETARY,
MOHAMMED ISMAIL AMER, EVENING MAY 19. AMER
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REPORTEDLY PICKED UP FOR DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS CON-
TAINING PARTY'S CRITIQUE OF REFERENDUM. ACCORDING PRESS,
AMER INITIALLY "CONFESSED" TO RECEIVING LEAFLETS
FROM MOHIE EL DIN BUT SUBSEQUENTLY CHANGED ACCOUNT. (NO
MENTION MADE OF FACT THAT MOHIE EL DIN PREVIOUSLY PASSED
SAME LEAFLET TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.)

4. PRESS FURTHER REPORTS INDEPENDENT LEFTIST AL HARARI REFUSED PAY 100 POUND BAIL AND REMAINS UNDER DETENTION IN ALEXANDRIA. PAPERS SAY CASE WILL BE HEARD LATER TODAY. (UNCLEAR ON WHAT GROUNDS MP, ENJOYING FULL PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY, COULD BE HELD LIABLE FOR BAILABLE OFFENSE.) PRESS CONTAINS NO COVERAGE OF MAY 19 MEETING BAR ASSOCIATION.

5. ANTICIPATING THE RESULT, COMMENTATORS BRAVELY PREDICT REFERENDUM WILL PASS. ACCORDING AHAM, "TOMORROW EGYPTIAN MASSES WILL MARCH INTO REFERENDUM BOOTHS TO SAY THEIR WORD ON SAFEGUARDING HOME FRONT AND SOCIAL PEACE. . . . GONE IS THE TIME WHEN ARISTOCRATIC FAMILIES DOMINATED THE PEOPLES' DESTINY; FALLEN FOREVER ARE THE MINIONS OF FOREIGN STOOGES AND CENTERS OF POWER, THE CLIQUES OF CORRUPTION. . . ." PAPER CONCLUDES PEOPLE WILL CERTAINLY SAY "YES". OTHER PAPERS YESTERDAY, TODAY (AND TOMORROW) HAVE (AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL) EDITORIALIZE ALONG SIMILAR LINES. MATTHEWS

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